

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes 4 sheets including FIGs. 1-4, which replace the original 2 sheets.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 17-24 and 26-33 remain in this application. None of the claims have been amended in this response.

The drawings and specification were objected to for informalities. In light of the present amendments to the specification and drawings, applicant submits the objections have been overcome. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Support for the drawing figures may be found in the original disclosure on pages 6-10. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-22, 24, 26-31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Buhrmann et al. (US Patent 5,854,984). Claims 23 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhrmann et al. (US Patent 5,854,984) in view of Woodward et al. (US Patent 6,259,188). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Specifically, Buhrmann does not teach or suggest a light emitting element and a light receiving element, and further does not disclose the first body and the second body being movable relative to one another and in optical contact with one another, and “that an optical signal input at any one of the first plurality and the second plurality of interfaces is capable of being coupled at another one of the first plurality and the second plurality of interfaces, regardless of a position of an interface” as recited in claim 17. As argued previously, Buhrmann merely generally discloses that contacts 57 and 80 could be optical contacts. However, Buhrmann does not teach the structure of the optical contacts being light emitting element or a light receiving element.

Furthermore, the structure of Buhrmann makes it such that the contacts 57 and 80 are operable only in one position (see FIG. 1; col. 4, lines 4-7). While Buhrmann discloses alternate embodiments of the pager relative to the handset using (1) non-recessed surfaces, (2) slidably attaching, or (3) rotatably attaching (i.e., flip-phone), there is nothing in the disclosure that teaches or suggests that the configuration will maintain optical contact regardless of the position. The disclosure is clear in teaching that the pager is removably attached as a module to the handset, and that no continuous contact is disclosed.

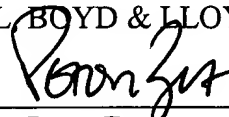
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 17 of the present application, as well as Claims 18-24 and 26-33 which respectfully depend therefrom, are

both novel and nonobvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this Application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from deposit account number 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112740-465) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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